

# data cyborgs

Constructing Datafied Relations, Week 1

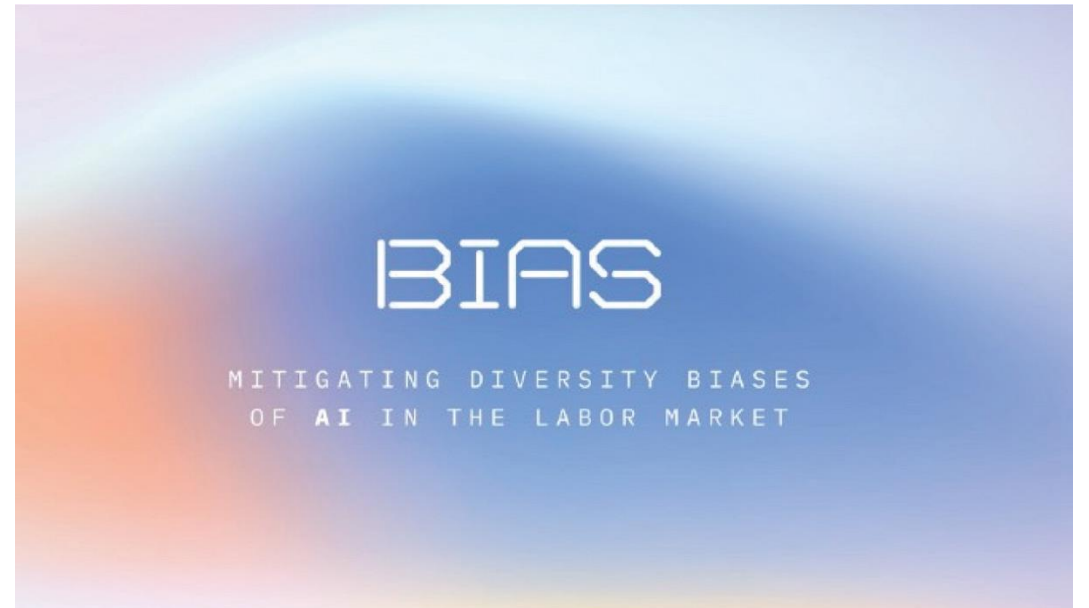
# Breathing Exercise (2 min)

# About me...

- Based in Biel, CH
- Background in pure mathematics
- Move to data science, idea that it's where “math meets the world”
- Post-doc in applied “AI for social good”
- Artistic researcher at ZHdK
- Writer, multimedia artist (visual, music, dance)
- Educator

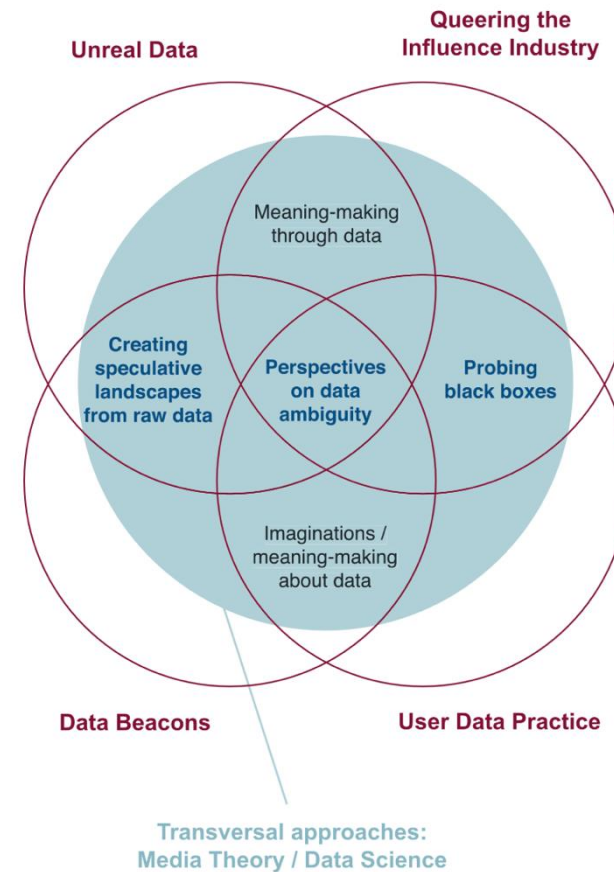
# BIAS Project

- On diversity, non-discrimination and fairness in recruitment AI
- 4-year EU horizon project
- Tech, law, humanities, social science
- Bias detection and mitigation in AI language models
- Capacity building for AI developers and HR professionals



# Latent Spaces-Performing Ambiguous Data

- Artistic research project
- Investigating the liminal space between the material world and the seemingly objective, numerical, unambiguous representations of the datafied world
- !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Felix Stalder, Coco Sollfrank, Shusha Niederburger, Gordan Savatic
- The bird and breathing data case studies and the seeds of many of the ideas for this course



# Getting to know each other...

- Name, location, a current project you're excited about.
- A community that you are a part of that's important to you?
- Favorite organism and what they evoke in you?
- What brought you to this course?
- What do you hope to learn and practice?

# Theoretical Groundwork

Setting the stage for data cyborgs and data science as resistance.

# Two ways of seeing the world





# Why?

- Data Science and the social roles of data have been shaped by power relations of domination.
- How can frameworks of resistance and liberation inform the construction of new datafied relations?
- Work together to develop concept of eco-feminist data science relations, realities, fictions.

# Dichotomies of Modernity

- Mind
- Individual
- Civilization
- Man
- Rationality
- Master
- White
- Subject

- Body
- Collective
- Nature
- Woman
- Emotion
- Slave
- Color
- Object









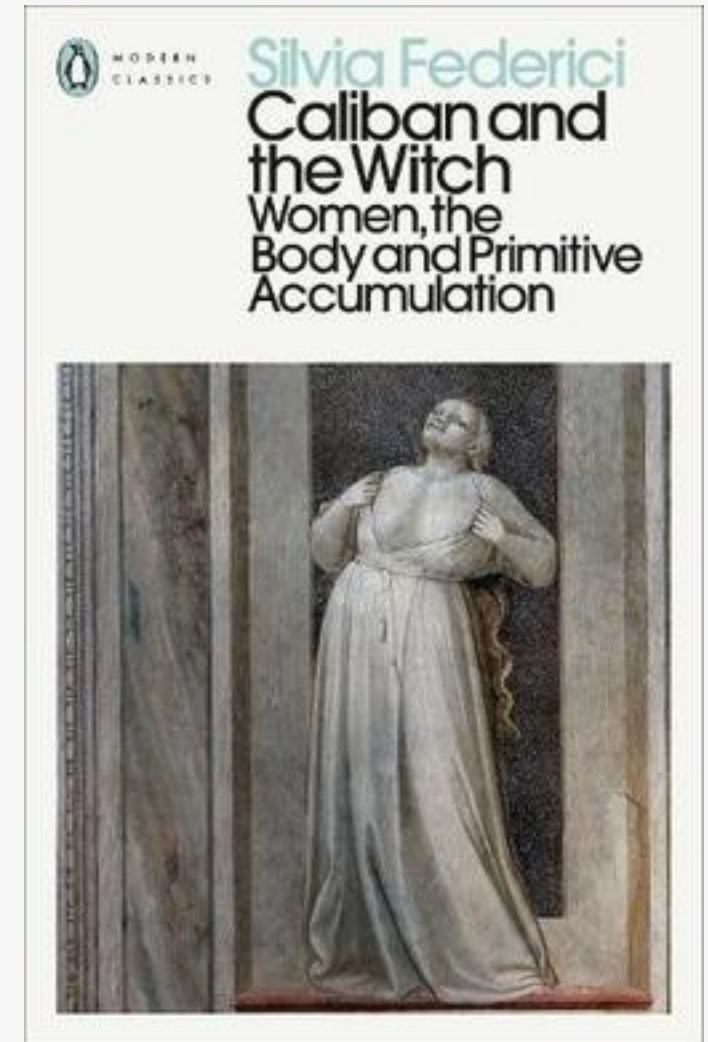


*Sic fossis foveis magno stridore Elephantes 2 Agmine cōveniunt, capiuntur cuspide ictu.*

---

# Caliban and the Witch

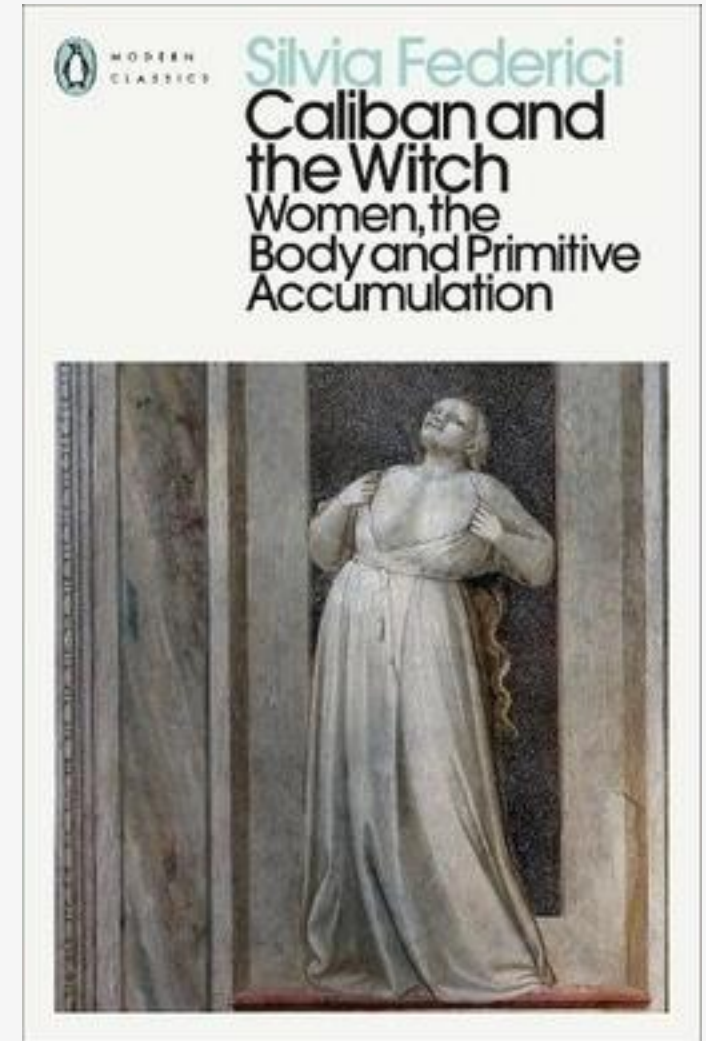
- The violence required to create the dominating power structures of capitalism in the transition from feudalism.
- Witch-hunts, loss of commons, colonialism/empire, criminalizing community, wage labor, police, large-scale war.
- Emphasis on the parallel subjugation and exploitation of the worker, body, woman, colonized and natural world.
- Creation of gender and racial divisions, opposition to/exploitation of nature as mechanisms of control.



---

# Caliban and the Witch

*“Capitalism, as a social-economic system, is necessarily committed to racism and sexism. For capitalism must justify and mystify the contradictions built into its social relations—the promise of freedom vs. the reality of widespread penury—by denigrating the ‘nature’ of those it exploits: women, colonial subjects, the descendants of African slaves, the immigrants displaced by globalization.”*



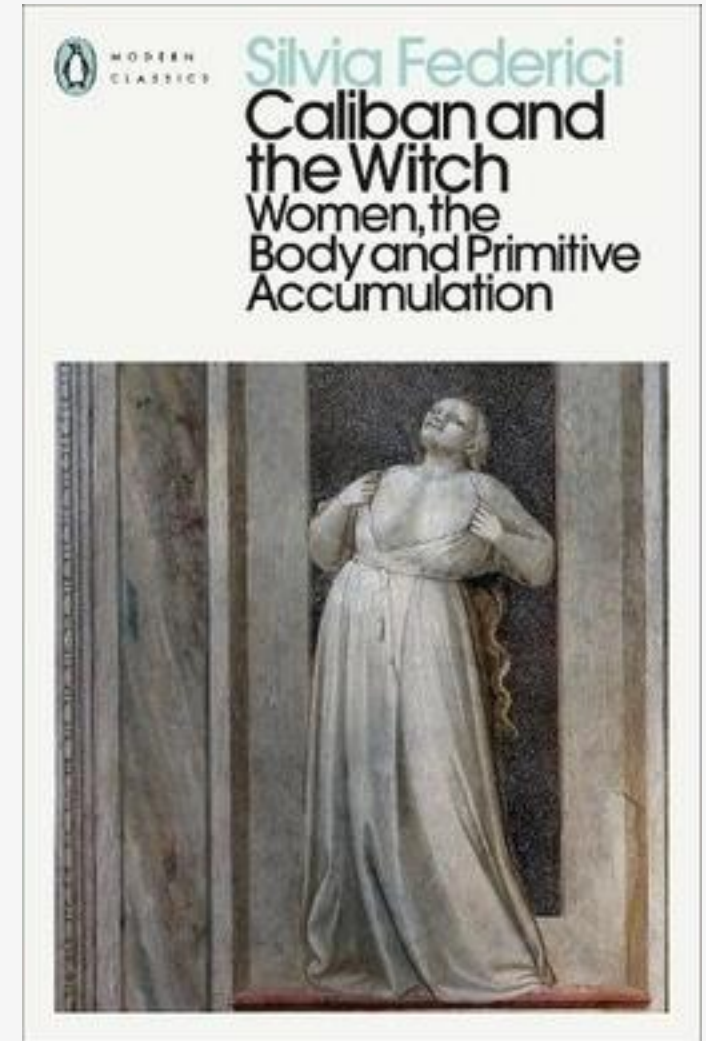


---

# Caliban and the Witch

*“That the path of scientific rationalization intersected with the disciplining of the social body is even more evident in the social sciences... premised on... the construction of a prototypical individual to whom all would be expected to conform, a social average,... subject to radical decharacterization...”*

*The construction of this individual was the basis for the development of... statistics and demography.”*





# The Dystopian Smart City

---

- Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou, Togolese Anthropologist and Architect.
- The smart city as the next iteration of the colonial exploitation of Africa.
- Atomized existence on algorithmic rails, surveillance capitalism and a society optimized as data and revenue streams.
- Data reinforcing the divisions of modernity.



# Homework

Research your own examples of data used to reinforce the three divisions of oppression and data used to reconcile those divisions.

Look in a context that is interesting to you, where you could imagine wanting to carry-out your own data project.

We will discuss these together next time as a way to help us further ground and develop the ideas planted this week.